(b) The Ministry has not received any such information from the State Government or the implementing agencies.

(c) Question does not arise.

Relaxation in norms for rural development funds

1149. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an attempt to make up for the undue delay in releasing funds for various rural development and poverty alleviation programmes, the centre had decided to relax the norms for clearing the second and final instalment during the current fiscal;

(b) if so, what are the main relaxation norms made in the latest order;

(c) by what time these orders will be implemented;

(d) whether rural development funds have been released to all the States; and

(e) if so, to what extent they have been able to implement these schemes after releasing the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) The matter regarding releasing granting of funds under various Centrally sponsored plan schemes had been under consideration of the Government for sometime and one of the conditions for release of second instalment has been relaxed for the year 2003-04.

(b) It has been decided that the second instalment will be released on utilization of 50%, instead of 60% of the total available funds, other conditions remaining the same.

(c) These orders will be implemented at the time of release of second instalment during the year 2003-04.

(d) The first instalment during the current year has already been released to all eligible District Rural Development Agencies/States.

(e) the Schemes are in the process of implementation.